

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) An electronic apparatus comprising:

operation inputting means for designating one of a plurality of functions, including playback, recording, fast forwarding, and rewinding;

function executing means for executing at least one of the plurality of functions, including playback, recording, fast forwarding, and rewinding, designated by the operating input means;

measuring means for measuring the time during which each of said functions has been executed by said function executing means;

computing means for computing an amount of charge based on the execution time measured by said measuring means regarding each of said functions, wherein a time unit charge decreases as the execution time increases and the time unit charge becomes zero when the execution time reaches a predetermined time value; and

management means for transmitting keys to the electronic apparatus, wherein the management means,

transmits a first key to the electronic apparatus to disable at least one of the plurality of functions, including playback, recording, fast forwarding, and rewinding, if the amount of charge is not settled, and

transmits a second key to the electronic apparatus to enable at least one of the plurality of functions, including playback, recording, fast forwarding, and rewinding, if the amount of charge is settled.

2. (Previously Presented) An electronic apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said computing means computes said amount of charge based on the execution time regarding each of said functions and through weighting on a function-by-function basis.

3. (Previously Presented) An electronic apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said function executing means is controlled by a microprocessor, and wherein said computing means computes said amount of charge based on the execution time regarding each of said functions and through weighting by a load factor of said microprocessor in effect during execution of each of said functions.

4. (Previously Presented) An electronic apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said computing means computes said amount of charge based on different weighting factors set for different apparatuses.

5. (Previously Presented) An electronic apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

storing means for storing execution times for each of said functions measured by said measuring means; and

transmitting means for transmitting said execution times from said storing means to an external entity for settlement of charges.

6. (Previously Presented) An electronic apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

storing means for storing a chargeable time representing the amount of charge computed by said computing means; and

transmitting means for transmitting said chargeable time from said storing means to an external entity for settlement of charges.

7. (Previously Presented) An electronic apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

storing means for storing a usable time of said apparatus; and

settling means for subtracting a chargeable time representing the amount of charge computed by said computing means, from said usable time stored in said storing means.

8. - 29. (Canceled)

30. (Currently Amended) A charge processing device comprising:

receiving means for receiving information about which of a plurality of functions, including playback, recording, fast forwarding, and rewinding, provided by an apparatus is being executed;

used time measuring means which, based on a result of the reception by said receiving means, measures as a used time the time during which each of the plurality of functions, including playback, recording, fast forwarding, and rewinding, has been executed;

chargeable time computing means for computing a chargeable time based on the used time measured by said used time measuring means regarding each of said functions, wherein a time unit charge decreases as the used time increases and the time unit charge becomes zero when the used time reaches a predetermined time value; and

storing means for storing chargeable time information resulting from the computing by said chargeable time computing means; and

management means for transmitting keys to the electronic apparatus,
wherein the management means,

transmits a first key to the electronic apparatus to disable at least one of the plurality of functions, including playback, recording, fast forwarding, and rewinding, if the amount of charge is not settled, and

transmits a second key to the electronic apparatus to enable at least one of the plurality of functions, including playback, recording, fast forwarding, and rewinding, if the amount of charge is settled.

31. (Original) A charge processing device according to claim 30, further comprising transmitting means for transmitting said chargeable time information from said storing means to an external entity for settlement of charges.

32. (Currently Amended) A storage medium which stores a program capable of controlling a computer, said program comprising the steps of:

measuring an execution time of each of functions, including playback, recording, fast forwarding, and rewinding, provided by an electronic apparatus, each function having been input for execution;

computing an amount of charge based on the measured execution time regarding each of said plurality of functions, including playback, recording, fast forwarding, and rewinding, wherein a time unit charge decreases as the measured execution time increases and the time unit charge becomes zero when the measured execution time reaches a predetermined time value;

transmitting a first key to the electronic apparatus to disable at least one of the plurality of functions, including playback, recording, fast forwarding, and rewinding, if the amount of charge is not settled, and

transmitting a second key to the electronic apparatus to enable at least one of the plurality of functions, including playback, recording, fast forwarding, and rewinding, if the amount of charge is settled.

33. (Original) A storage medium which stores a program according to claim 32, wherein said program further comprises the step of transmitting said chargeable amount to an external entity for settlement of charges.

34. - 43. (Canceled)